

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. New claims 4-6 have been added in accordance with the original filed application. Claims 1-6 are now pending in the present application, wherein claims 1 and 4 are independent.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

In the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,829,623 to Otsuka et al ("Otsuka"). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection in view of Otsuka is herein traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

According to independent claim 1, a removable lid is provided for sealing a container, the lid having crimping about its perimeter. A plurality of evenly spaced, elongate radial beads is provided in the lid. The beads extend from adjacent the center of the lid to adjacent the perimeter of the lid. The radial beads predispose strain creases to form in an even pattern coincident with the radial beads.

In contrast, Otsuka discloses an openable can lid having a top plate and a peripheral groove about the periphery of the top plate. A tab is fastened to the top plate at an approximate center of the top plate with a rivet and a score line with starting and ending points located beside the rivet with a distance serving as a hinge. An openable member is surrounded by the score line. A buckling part is provided near to the peripheral groove in a range of 25 to 65 degrees from the center of the top plate from a line between the tip end of the openable member and the center of the top plate in all sector segments formed when the can lid is divided into four sector segments by a line between an extreme end of the openable member and the center of the top plate and a line which passes through the center of the top

plate and orthogonally intersects the above described line. A reinforcing part with a reinforcing affect, smaller than a buckling effect, is provided at a coupling part between the top plate and the peripheral groove or near the coupling part except for the buckling part at an opposite side of the openable member and its neighborhood to provide a difference of strength between the buckling part at the openable member side and the buckling part at the opposite side of the openable member. In Figure 1, the buckling parts are very small grooves 7 formed adjacent the peripheral groove 2. In Figure 2, the buckling parts are grooves 17 alongside portions of the peripheral groove 2. In Figure 3, the buckling parts are arc-shaped grooves having ends that terminate in the peripheral grooves 2. In Figure 5, the arc-shaped grooves are interrupted and in Figure 6, the grooves are similar to those of Figure 1 except slightly extended.

Otsuka however fails to teach or suggest a removable lid having crimping about its perimeter and a plurality of evenly spaced elongate, radial beads extending from adjacent the center of the lid to adjacent the perimeter of the lid. The lid in Otsuka is integrally formed with the container and has a tab centrally fastened to the lid by a rivet preventing the buckling parts from being positioned adjacent the lid center.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 as amended patentably distinguishes over Otsuka and should be allowed. Claims 2 and 3 directly depend from independent claim 1 and include its limitations. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims should also be allowed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

III. New Claims

Independent claim 4 defines a sealed container comprising a container body having an open top and a removable lid covering the open top of the container body, in addition to subject matter analogous to that recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim distinguishes patentably over Otsuka for the same reasons set forth above and should be allowed. As claims 5 and 6 directly depend from independent claim 4, and include its limitations which are now allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims should also be allowed.


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IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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